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We are in the sixth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We’ve been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new sites. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., NO EXTRA COST.

AMAZON PEACOCK BASS – TRIP REPORTS



It used to be that this time of year was reserved for those wonderful reports from Southern Hemisphere destinations like New Zealand and Patagonia. However, in the last few years, the reports coming from the clear water, “fly fishing only” Agua Boa Amazon Lodge have been exciting enough to share center stage. Where else can you actually average 30-60 fish a day including the real possibility for 10 to 15+ pound peacock bass....and maybe even put your hook into the Amazon version of a crocodile – i.e. a Caiman – as Rich Hosley did (photo at left)?

Early comments and reports for this season.....

Rich Hosley (photo left, below) – “My biggest fish was 14#.....had four double digit peacocks and probably two dozen in the 6 to 9 pound category. I went through 3 1/2 dozen flies with most of them being reduced to mere shreds of their original profiles and was bumming flies the last day. It was definitely the ‘toothiest’

piscatorial environment I have ever been in.” Note regarding the caiman – the caiman will sometimes show up at boat side attempting to take your catch before landing. However, it is not normal for them to be a casting target.

Jerry Saltzgaber (photo left/center, below) – “We broke 5 fly rods and lost 7 fly lines. In one incredible period, on six consecutive casts, I caught 14, 13, 12, 10, and 9 pound peacocks. I loved the whole trip....fishing was great, food wonderful, houseboat comfortable, and company perfect. Each of us had our own room with bathroom. The rooms and dining room were air conditioned. We never saw another person the whole time from the houseboat.....the Agua Boa is a protected river.”



Silver Piranha



Jeff Reinke (photo right, above) – “The fishing was fantastic. It’s amazing having a ‘bulldozer’ connected to your fly rod in the middle of the jungle.”

(Jerry and Rich’s comments above were excerpted from their complete reports which are at the bottom of the Amazon page on our website – Jerry has also posted a Kodak slide show which includes 99 photos from his trip)

Availability for next season is already very limited. We are holding all six spots on the houseboat for 1/25 – 2/2 and there are a few other openings at both the lodge and on the houseboat.

EXOTIC COMBO ADVENTURES – MAXIMIZING TIME AND AIR TRAVEL

If you have the time and the budget, an interesting way to travel with your fly rod is to combine, during the same trip, two or more different fly fishing environments located in the same general part of the world. The packing challenges are a killer, but it does keep things lively.

PATAGONIA AND THE AMAZON – How can you come home from one trip with fish photos that include both a trophy peacock bass and a rainbow trout? Mark Buell did just that (photos at right). Mark joined with Pat Patterson on one of his globe-hopping fly rod adventures. They started in the Amazon fishing the Rio Negro River system which produced the 12# Peacock Bass pictured. After some complex airline connections, they ended up in the Esquel area of Argentina. They fished several stunning streams and rivers in the area, some more productive than others. The centerpiece of their Patagonia experience was a three day float trip. Pat’s report included this description of their float trip experience: “.....the Chubut offered the very best fishing experience that I have enjoyed, all things considered. While we didn’t count, I believe we each hooked about 200 fish per day on the three days. Perhaps 30% were eight inches or less, 60% 11 to 15” and 10% between 16 and 22”. Everything was on dries with the hot fly being the Fat Albert. The fish were everywhere they should have been and too often (with the small ones) getting in the way of a presentation to what we knew to be larger trout. Plenty of rising fish to cast to. The camping was exceptional as was the overall beauty of the river and the area. We were pampered nicely!” (Pat’s complete report on his Argentina experience is at the bottom of the Patagonia page on our website)



FIJI AND NEW ZEALAND –



Yep, I’m pretty excited about my combination of Giant Trevally and Brown Trout photos from our recent trip. Each year, we combine a tropical South Pacific stop with our annual Kiwi land visit, just three air hours apart. This year, for the fourth time, we made our tropical stop at our favorite “second honeymoon-type” resort isolated on an out-island in the Fijian chain. This is one of those very rare spots with a 5-Star rating and a 3-Star price and we have come to love it. However, on each of our previous three visits, I have worked hard to make it a productive fly fishing destination and failed..... miserably. I’ve spent days looking for non-existent bonefish and taken a few 5# trevally, some small reef fish, and an 8# red snapper.....not much to show for three years of effort. This year, I went prepared with some Giant Trevally techniques I learned last year while fishing Christmas Island during our tropical stop. After three years of failing to find some reasonable fly fishing in this area, this year was different. I took the largest Giant Trevally (by 11#) of my fly fishing career (39# in photo) as well as another 18# pounder, both on fly rod poppers. Very good stuff and, for me, after

three frustrating years of exploring, one of my top “feel good” fly fishing experiences. Then on to New Zealand where our best day included sight casting to and releasing three big browns of 6.75, 7, and 7.5 pounds, two of them on dries! What a combo trip.....very difficult to return from and face the real world!



IF THE SEYCHELLES IS ON YOUR "WISH LIST".....?



Since 1999, the flats of St. Francois Lagoon in the Seychelles has made news in the salt water fly fishing community. The bonefishing has always been spectacular and, accompanied by the five different species of trevally, were the main attractions. However, in the last few years, the guides have found ways to catch the milkfish (left), a powerful fish that tear into your backing about twice as fast as a bonefish and jump like a tarpon....plus they attain large sizes. Milk fish are not carnivorous – their diet consists primarily of algae and they were thought to be uncatchable.....until recently. Now the milkfish have added another dimension to the Seychelles fly rod experience.

In addition to the fishing, the adventure of visiting the Seychelles and using the five star resort at Alphonse Island as your headquarters has made this destination a "world class" fly fishing experience. Now, it is possible in the foreseeable future that access to St. Francois Lagoon may be greatly reduced or ended. There is new ownership in place at Alphonse Island and they have put the word out not to accept any fly fishing bookings after April of 2009. It is unknown at this time whether the fly fishing program will continue or, if it does continue, at what level it will be operated. The new owners are planning a massive development on Alphonse and fly fishing may not be a focus of the new operations. As this word has spread, many of the previous visitors to Alphonse have rushed to reserve one more shot at the fishery. Space is already very limited for the next 14 months. In 2008, there are a few openings in October, November is full, and the last two weeks of Dec have several open slots. For 2009, January through April is about 60% full.

If you have interest in this very unique and pricey salt water flats trip (\$6,850 per person), let me know and we can examine the possibilities. The Seychelles are accessed via non-stop flights from both Paris and London.

DEAN RIVER – PRIME TIME SUMMER RUN OPEN SLOT

There is a late cancellation for a slot at Blackwell's lower Dean River steelhead lodge for the week of July 18 – 25, a prime time slot on the lower stretch of the river. Price is \$5,750 and that includes the charter flight from Vancouver. (Bob Noyes and a Dean "chromer" – right)



PHOTO CREDITS:

Rich Hosley w/caiman and peacock; Jerry Saltzgaber w/peacock and also silver piranha; Jeff Reinke w/peacock; Pat Patterson/Mark Buell for photos in Patagonia and the Amazon; Frontiers for milkfish; Bob Noyes, Dean steelhead

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,

Don Muelrath

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